

The “European Affairs in the Croatian Parliament” bulletin is published monthly by the European Affairs Department. It provides the reader with an overview of parliamentary activities in the field of EU affairs and inter-parliamentary cooperation as well as with access to EU documents forwarded to national parliaments.

### In Focus

## 2022 Commission Work Programme

The Commission adopted its [2022 Work Programme](#), setting out the next steps in its bold and transformative agenda towards a post-COVID-19 Europe that is greener, fairer, more digital and more resilient. This Commission Work Programme contains 42 new policy initiatives across all six headline ambitions of President **von der Leyen's** [Political Guidelines](#), building on her 2021 [State of the Union speech](#). It also reflects the lessons learnt from the unprecedented crisis caused by the pandemic, while paying particular attention to our young generation thanks to the proposed [European Year of Youth 2022](#).

### Delivering on the six headline ambitions

- **A European Green Deal**

The Commission will continue making Europe the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050. On top of its pioneering [‘Fit for 55 package’](#) presented in 2021 as part of the trailblazing European Green Deal, the Commission will propose a regulatory framework for **certification of carbon removals**. It will also: take further steps towards zero-emission mobility by, for instance, reviewing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles; follow up **on the zero pollution action plan** to improve water and air quality; set new rules on sustainable use of pesticides; and advance **the circular economy** by strengthening the **right to repair** products instead of replacing them. The Commission will also **mobilise resources**, next to the already proposed **Social Climate Fund**, doubling the external funding for **biodiversity**. **Green bonds** will also play an increasingly important role and expresses our commitment to place sustainable finance at the forefront of the EU's recovery effort.

- **A Europe fit for the digital age**

With the pandemic serving as a catalyst for the accelerating digitalisation of the world, the Commission will follow up on its path to the digital decade to deliver on the EU's digital transformation by 2030. The Single Market remains key to Europe's innovation and therefore, the Commission has been taking **a fresh look at competition policy** and will come forward with a **Single Market Emergency Instrument** to prevent future disruptions. To address pressing concerns around the supply of semi-conductors powering digital solutions, we will adopt a **European Chips Act** to promote a state-of-the-art ecosystem and develop new markets for ground-breaking European tech. Additionally, the Commission will propose a **European Cyber Resilience Act** to establish common cybersecurity standards, and begin building **an EU space-based global secure communications system** to provide additional EU-wide broadband connectivity and secure independent communications to Member States. Measures to facilitate the uptake of **digital skills in schools and higher education** will also be high on the agenda.



- **An economy that works for people**

With the recovery gathering pace and economic activity on its way back to pre-crisis levels, we now need to reflect on how to make our social market economy more resilient. The Commission will follow up on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan as a guide towards quality jobs, fair working conditions and a better work-life balance, and will present a proposal to improve the protection of workers from the **risks related to exposure to asbestos at work**. To support policies of Member States, the Commission will strengthen social safety nets, crucial to cushion economic shocks, by setting out an initiative on adequate **minimum income**. With the financial sector being key for the economic recovery, we will also deliver proposals on **instant payments** to foster their full uptake as well as **facilitating access to capital for businesses in the EU**. Once a global solution on **reforming the international corporate tax framework** is finalised, the Commission will ensure its swift and consistent implementation across the EU.

- **A stronger Europe in the world**

The Commission continues to strengthen the EU's unique brand of global leadership. Over the next year, the Commission will set out a new **global gateway strategy** to build connectivity partnerships around the world to boost trade and investment. By the end of this year, a **new EU-NATO Joint Declaration** will be presented and the Commission will seek to accelerate work on a genuine **European Defence Union**. In pursuit of the global energy transition and healthier oceans, a new strategy on **international energy engagement** and an **action plan on international ocean governance** will be tabled.

- **Promoting our European way of life**

To ensure young people have the ability to shape the future, the Commission has proposed to **make 2022 the European Year of Youth** and will deploy a new initiative, **ALMA** (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve), helping disadvantaged young Europeans who are not in any kind of employment, education or training to gain professional experience abroad with the necessary social support. The ultimate objective is to integrate them into education, vocational training or quality employment. The Commission will also present an **EU strategy for universities** and propose ways for a **deeper and more sustainable transnational cooperation in higher education**. Incorporating the lessons learnt from the pandemic, the Commission will present a **European care strategy** to comprehensively improve care, from childcare to long-term care. To build up further our European Health Union, the Commission will ensure access to affordable high-quality medicines by proposing a **new framework for a dynamic EU pharmaceutical sector**; table a **revision of legislation on medicines for children and rare diseases**; and boost life-saving cancer screening and early diagnosis through a **Recommendation on cancer screening**.

- **A new push for European democracy**

The Conference on the Future of Europe is in full swing and together with European Citizens' initiatives, European democracy will continue to be made more vibrant. The Commission will also take further steps to safeguard media freedom and pluralism, by tabling a **European Media Freedom Act**, and will continue to guard **the rule of law**, central to the effective functioning of the EU. To step up the fight against cross-border crime, a common legal framework for the efficient transfer of **criminal proceedings** between Member States will remain high on the agenda. We will also continue our efforts on the design of the new interinstitutional **EU Ethics Body** in close consultation with other institutions. To ensure equality for all, we will propose measures to improve the **recognition of parenthood** between EU countries. An initiative on **brain drain and mitigating the challenges associated with population decline**, identifying potential solutions, will also be tabled.



A full list of the 42 new policy initiatives, within 32 policy objectives, under the six headline ambitions are set out in [Annex 1](#) of the 2022 Commission Work Programme.

## Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

### Activities of the parliamentary committees

#### European Affairs Committee

European Affairs Committee discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for [2020](#) and [2021](#).

European Affairs Committee has forwarded 2 [documents](#) to relevant committees for the consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for [2020](#).

### Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

#### Council

The Croatian Government submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees its positions for 10 Council meetings held in October 2021.

## EU documents Forwarded Directly to the Croatian Parliament

According to the Protocol (no 1) on the Role of the National Parliaments in the European Union, all draft laws and communications shall be forwarded directly to the national parliaments.

The Croatian Parliament publishes on a daily basis the EU documents received, along with the information on: document number, adoption procedure, transmission date and subsidiarity deadline.

In October 2021, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [56 documents](#): 26 draft laws and 30 communications and other non-binding documents.

## Inter-parliamentary Cooperation in the European Union

Inter-parliamentary cooperation in the European Union encompasses the cooperation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments and the cooperation among the national parliaments in the frame of the parliamentary dimension of the Council Presidency.

### **23 October – European Parliament, Strasbourg, videoconference – Conference on the Future of Europe Plenary Meeting**

The second Conference Plenary meeting took place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg to discuss citizens' contributions.

The 80 representatives of the European Citizens' Panels took their seats as Members of the Plenary and discussions focused on citizens' contributions from:

the [European Citizens' Panels](#) (initial impressions, work streams and subtopics);

[national panels and events](#) (report presented by national panel representatives);

the [European Youth Event](#) (the [20 most popular ideas](#) were presented by EYE2021 representatives);



and the [second interim report from the Multilingual Digital Platform](#).

The Conference on the Future of Europe is an unprecedented, open and inclusive democratic exercise, with a [Multilingual Digital Platform](#), where all Europeans are invited to have their say on how to shape our shared future on various issues.

The Co-Chairs of the Conference made the following statements:

Guy Verhofstadt (European Parliament), said: “The enthusiasm in the Citizens' Panels is great, expectations are high, the formula is working. Now the Plenary has to find answers to the issues raised, in the form of a shared vision of Europe's future and concrete deliverables on how we reform the European Union. EU politics have to rise to the occasion.”

Gašper Dovžan (Presidency of the Council) commented that: “Tens of thousands of citizens continue to discuss the future of Europe in the European and national panels and events, as well as on the Platform. The Plenary will debate and bring forward their recommendations in the areas that matter most to them, without a predetermined outcome. This is the first Plenary under the Slovenian Presidency of the Council and we were very pleased to welcome representatives from our Western Balkans partners as key stakeholders with whom we share responsibility for the future of the EU.”

Dubravka Šuica (Vice-President of the European Commission) stated: "This is a historic moment where, for the first time, citizens deliberate on a par with their elected representatives at all levels. Bringing citizens to the core of European policymaking will reinforce our representative democracies, as we set sail towards our common future.”

At the second plenary session of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Croatian Parliament was represented by Gari Cappelli, Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee, Domagoj Hajduković, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Marko Pavić, Chairman of the Committee on Regional Development and EU Funds, and Ružica Vukovac Deputy Chair of the Agriculture Committee.

### **25 – 26 October – European Parliament, Bruxelles, videoconference - 9th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)**

Member of the Committee on Domestic Policy and National Security Josip Sarić participated at the meeting.

The JPSG brought together Members of national parliaments and the European Parliament to fulfil the scrutiny and oversight on the activities of Europol including fundamental rights. The JPSG meets at least twice a year. It is Co-Chaired by the European Parliament and the country holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The agenda included interventions by Europol Executive Director, Ms Catherine De Bolle and keynote speeches by Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ms Ylva Johansson and Mr Aleš Hojs, Minister of Interior, Slovenia. JPSG also heard a presentation by the European Data Protection Supervisor, Mr Wojciech Wiewiórowski. Thematic debates with the Office of the EPPO and high-profile experts from national authorities included topics such as financial crime and corruption - protection of the EU financial interest and rules of procedure and online child abuse and the cooperation with third countries, including private persons and NGOs.



## Inter-parliamentary activities in November 2021

**8 November** - Bruxelles, videoconference - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Artificial Intelligence policies and strategies at EU and national level AIDA

**8 November** - Rome, videoconference - Committee On Women's Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

**9 November** - Bruxelles, videoconference - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the expectations of national Parliaments for the Conference on the Future of Europe AFCO

**9 November** - Bruxelles, videoconference - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on foreign interference, including disinformation in all democratic processes in the European Union INGE

**15 November** - Lisboa, videoconference - Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM)

**18 November** - Bruxelles, videoconference - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the development of CAP Strategic plans in each Member States

**29 – 30 November** - Ljubljana, videoconference - LXVI COSAC Plenary Meeting

**30 November** - Bruxelles, videoconference - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on violence against women

